

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sharratt et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0040710 ("Sharratt"). Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Each of the claims includes, among other things, the feature of selectively routing optical channels from a WDM input signal to a plurality of other interfaces using a plurality of intra-node outputs.

It is respectfully submitted that Sharratt does not disclose or suggest the use or existence of a plurality of intra-node outputs.

Referring to FIG. 2 of Sharratt, each so-called CCU has a single output. The same is true for FIG. 7 of Sharratt and FIG. 8 as well.

Accordingly, because Sharratt does not disclose each feature of the present invention, Sharratt cannot anticipate the claims of the present invention.

Applicant notes that the feature of a plurality of intra-node transmission paths was originally included in claim 7. Therefore, the amendments to claims 1, 6 and 7 do not require additional search on behalf of the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1-7.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

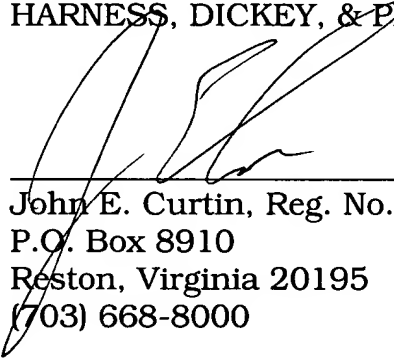
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNES, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



John E. Curtin, Reg. No. 37,602
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JEC:psy